

# DiGIn:



## Disordered Gambling Integration

### Mission:

To increase the capacity of substance use disorder and mental health treatment programs to address gambling and problem gambling through enhanced screening, assessment, awareness, intervention, recovery and health promotion strategies. To make gambling problems and behaviors a relevant topic of conversation within the broader substance use and mental health disorder treatment communities.

### Components:

- Agency Problem Gambling Awareness and Readiness Surveys
- Problem Gambling Integration Training
- CT Certification Board Specialty Certificate in Problem Gambling Competency
- Case Consultation Conference Calls
- Problem Gambling Integration Capability Site Reviews

### Health Problems and Medical Service Utilization

At risk gamblers more likely to receive emergency room care and to be diagnosed with: Hypertension, Obesity, Severe Injury, Mood Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder, and Nicotine Dependence. (National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions, Morasco et al., 2006)

Substance use disorders increase the likelihood of a gambling disorder by more than 4-fold. Over 20% of persons with substance use disorders have gambling problems. (J.Clin Psychiatry 2005;66:564-74, J Subst Abuse Treat 2014; 46:98-105.)

Compared to non-gamblers, older adult problem gamblers are nearly 7 times more likely to be smokers, 6 times more likely to have an alcohol problem, and 3.5 times more likely to have a drug use problem.

(Am J Geriatr Psychiatry 2007; 15:301-13)

Persons with psychiatric conditions suffer from gambling problems at extraordinarily high rates, and up to one-third of persons with gambling disorder attempt suicide (Psychol Med.2008; 8:1351-60, J Clin Psychiatry 2005; 66:564-74., Am J Addict 2006; 15:303-10)

### DiGIn Participating Programs:

CCAR  
Central Naugatuck Valley HELP  
Community Renewal Team  
Communicare  
Community Mental Health Affiliates  
Ct Renaissance  
Midwestern CT Council on Alcoholism  
Natchaug Hospital  
Perception Program  
Recovery Network of Programs  
United Community and Family Services  
Wheeler Clinic



Untreated Gambling Problems lead to decreased treatment effectiveness and increased costs.

### Importance of Integrating Gambling Issues

Individuals in Substance Use and Mental Health treatment are at significantly higher risk for having gambling problems.

Individuals with a lifetime history of a mental health disorder (MH) have **2-3 times the rate** of problem gambling (PG).

The more severe the past year substance use disorder (SUD) the **higher the prevalence** of gambling problems.

Canadian Epidemiological Study (Rush et al., 2008)

19% of individuals in treatment for schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder met criteria for problem or pathological gambling.

Connecticut Study (Desai & Potenza, 2009)

### PG in Methadone Maintenance

- 28% meet criteria for PG
- PG group more positive tox screen for cocaine
- PG group was over 2.5 X more likely to drop out of treatment early.